

**South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services  
Medical Care Advisory Committee  
Item for Committee Advisement**

**PREPARED BY:** Sherry Everett and Susie Boykin

**PRESENTED BY:** Sam Waldrep

**DATE:** August 14, 2012

**SUBJECT:** Mechanical Ventilation Home and Community-Based Waiver

**OBJECTIVE:** To request a five (5) year renewal of the waiver from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

**BACKGROUND:** This waiver provides services for persons dependent upon mechanical ventilation who are 21 and older and who meet all other medical criteria for nursing facility placement. The waiver was originally approved by CMS in 1994 and has been subsequently renewed three times. The waiver provides a variety of in-home services including incontinence supplies, personal care services, home delivered meals and attendant care. The most critical service in this waiver is private duty nursing, in which a licensed nurse provides care in the home environment.

Because of the substantial medical needs of persons dependent upon mechanical ventilation, this population would require hospitalization or placement at a specialized nursing facility in the absence of the waiver services. At this time, South Carolina has twenty nursing facility beds designated for ventilator dependent care. The cost for this care is substantially higher than other nursing facility rates.

There are no major proposed revisions in this renewal.

**BUDGETARY IMPACT:** The daily rate for ventilator specialized care at a nursing facility is \$450 per day; this does not include other Medicaid expenditures for persons in a facility. In comparison, the most recent costs for waiver participants indicates an average daily cost of \$106 for waiver services and \$66 for all other Medicaid services. This total of \$172 per day is 61 percent less than \$450 per day for institutional care.

**EXPECTED OUTCOMES:** The renewal of the waiver would mean continual delivery of a variety of services to address participants' needs and provide participants the choice to remain in their homes, instead of seeking nursing facility placement or having to remain in a hospital setting.

**EXTERNAL GROUPS AFFECTED:** Provider groups, such as private duty nursing providers. The waiver also provides a discharge alternative for hospitals who are housing this population for extended stays.

In order to gather public input on the proposed revisions, the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) will have a public meeting August 27, 2012, 2 - 4pm, SCDHHS, 1801 Main Street, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room, Columbia, South Carolina, 29201.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Renewal of the waiver to allow this cost effective program to continue and to allow participants to receive care in the least restrictive environment possible.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** August 31, 2012